

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 8, 1978

Dr. Paul Berg
Department of Biochemistry
Stanford University Medical Center
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Dr. Berg:

You will perhaps recall that on September 25th I communicated with you and enclosed a copy of an Oversight Report by the Senate Subcommittee on Science, Technology and Space on "Recombinant DNA Research and Its Applications." In minority views in that report, I stated my opposition to "unwarranted and excessive regulation of a field of scientific research where the risks are purely theoretical and inconsistent with other knowledge."

Senator Stevenson, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space, has now stated that he will be introducing legislation early in the next session of Congress that will be directed toward regulation of recombinant DNA research. Enclosed is a copy of his statement from the Congressional Record of October 14, 1978, stating his views on this issue and his intent to submit a bill in January.

I would be most interested in your views and those of your colleagues on Senator Stevenson's position on this issue. This would be of great help when this issue is debated on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,



Harrison Schmitt
United States Senator

HS:jwj
Enclosure